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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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NORTH DAKOTA

Feds: Man sent more than 50 anthrax hoax, bomb threat letters. A Connecticut man was charged with sending more than 50 anthrax hoax and bomb threat letters to recipients including government officials and buildings, federal authorities said. A complaint charging the 43-year-old of Thomaston and Morris, Connecticut, was unsealed September 22, the Department of Justice said in a statement. The suspect has been in custody since he surrendered to authorities in North Dakota September 7. He appeared September 22 in federal court in North Dakota, where he agreed to be returned to Connecticut. "This defendant is alleged to have sent more than 50 letters nationwide, in which he threatened to kill numerous victims, by shooting them, bombing the buildings in which they work or exposing them to a substance that he claimed was, but was not, anthrax," the U.S. attorney for the District of Connecticut said in the statement. The letters resulted in the evacuation of a post office, a town hall and a public school, he said. The suspect is charged with mailing threatening communications and with making threats through the mail to kill, injure or intimidate a person, or to damage or destroy any building by means of an explosive, authorities said. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on each charge. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/09/23/connecticut.hoax.letters/>

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) High waters trip flood gates at Byllesby Dam. Some of Byllesby Dam's trip gates opened due to high waters during the previous night, the Cannon Falls, Minnesota, Police Department reported the morning of September 24. Dam operators advised city officials that the gates worked as designed. Following safety procedures, the city opened its incident command system and officials were planning on meeting throughout the day to monitor the situation. Sandbagging was being done at a limited number of residences as a precautionary measure. No evacuation of residences is occurring, police said. Source: <http://www.republican-eagle.com/event/article/id/69174/group/homepage/>

(Minnesota) Fields flooded, dorm rooms evacuated at Carleton College. Floodwaters covered some parts of the Carleton College campus in Northfield, Minnesota September 24 after the Cannon River overshot its banks. Water gushed on to the football field and into equipment rooms just after 7 a.m., sending coaches scrambling to salvage what they could. Nearby practice fields were also flooded. The school's new president said 30 students were evacuated from their dorm rooms. He said he is hopeful staff will be able to ready the football field for next week's homecoming events. Source: <http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S1760563.shtml?cat=10728>

(Minnesota; Wisconsin) Flooding threatens cities in Wisconsin and Minnesota, forcing evacuation of dozens more homes. Flooding caused by heavy rain that has lashed parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin forced the evacuation September 24 of dozens of homes in the small city of Owatonna, where swollen waterways closed bridges and threatened to swamp neighborhoods. Five businesses

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in Owatonna, a city of about 24,000 residents 65 miles south of Minneapolis, were closed due to floodwater from two creeks and the Straight River, the Steele County commissioner said. The creeks were receding the morning of September 24 but the river was still rising. No injuries had been reported. Friday's forecast called for dry conditions for much of the region, offering a breather for exhausted emergency personnel who have been working long hours to deal with the flooding. But some rivers and streams were likely to continue to rise from as much as 10.5 inches of rain September 23, and another storm was expected to creep into the region September 25. In southeast Minnesota, more than a dozen homes near a dam in the small town of Oronoco were evacuated for fear that torrential rains had weakened the dam. About 90 miles east of Owatonna in Arcadia, Wisconsin, emergency officials evacuated 343 homes September 23 as 3-foot floodwaters surged through the city's downtown area. Nearly half of the city's 2,400 residents were told to seek shelter elsewhere. Crews also worked to evacuate 80 homes in the nearby city of Black River Falls. The Wisconsin National Guard distributed thousands of sandbags to municipalities, including 20,000 to Arcadia and 10,000 each to Neillsville and Osseo. Minnesota and Wisconsin's governors declared emergencies for large segments of their states September 24, and the Minnesota governor planned to tour flood-damaged areas September 24. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/09/24/flooding-threatens-cities-wisconsin-minnesota-forcing-evacuation-dozens-homes/>

(Minnesota) 3 firefighters hurt after fire, explosion at Xcel plant in Burnsville. Three Burnsville firefighters were injured September 21 at an explosion and fire in a smoldering coal bin at Xcel Energy's Black Dog power plant in Burnsville, Minnesota, Xcel Energy said. Two firefighters were treated at the scene for minor burns and returned to fighting the fire while a third was transported to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, according to a Burnsville Police Department spokesman. The 538-megawatt plant, which produces enough electricity to supply 400,000 households, has been shut down while the cause of the explosion is under investigation by the Burnsville Fire Department and Xcel, an Xcel spokeswoman said. She said the utility will buy additional power and does not anticipate supply problems. Burnsville firefighters were called to the plant, located on the Minnesota River at 1410 Black Dog Road E., at 7:25 a.m. after Xcel workers noticed smoldering in a coal bin, the Xcel spokeswoman said. While firefighters were on the site, there was a "small explosion" in the sheet metal shed, she said. As a precaution, Xcel workers shut down the plant's Unit 3 coal-fired boiler, which was closest to the explosion, and also the plant's Unit 4 coal boiler. The plant's remaining boiler, called 5-2 because it replaced the old Unit 1 and 2 boilers with a modern natural gas unit, was already offline for maintenance, the spokesman said. It remained shut September 21. Xcel has proposed closing Black Dog's two remaining coal-fired boilers and converting them to modern and larger natural gas units by 2016. The proposal is pending before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. If approved, the project would resemble work Xcel has done in recent years at its two aging coal plants in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Source: http://www.twincities.com/ci_16132620

NATIONAL

Researchers calculate the death toll from texting while driving. According to researchers from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Ft. Worth, texting behind the wheel accounted for 16,141 deaths between 2002 and 2007. The researchers arrived at that figure by analyzing nationwide traffic data from the Fatality Accident Reporting System and texting records from the Federal Communications Commission and CTIA, the wireless telecom industry group. Crunching the

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numbers, they calculated that if text messaging had never been invented, there would have been 1,925 traffic fatalities per year due to distracted driving between 2002 and 2007. But they rose from 4,611 in 2001 to 5,988 in 2007. Some other factoids from the study: The percentage of all traffic deaths caused by distracted driving rose from 11 percent in 1999 to 16 percent in 2008; Only one-third of Americans had a cellphone in 1999. By 2008, 91 percent did; The average monthly volume of text messages was 1 million in 2002. By 2008, it was 110 million. The study was published online September 23 by the American Journal of Public Health. Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-distracted-driving-20100924,0,3103350.story>

Floods last fall were 10,000 year rain event. The National Weather Service (NWS) said there was no way to predict last September's epic floods would dump 21 inches of rain in less than 24 hours in the Peachtree, Georgia area. The floods damaged or destroyed 20,000 homes and businesses and killed 10 people. The NWS service said such rainfall totals occur only once every 10,000 years. But the amount of rain was just one part of the problem. During the storm 20 river gauges went out so officials didn't know how high river levels were for about 30 hours, a NWS senior hydrologist said. He is leading the effort to install manual river gauges in areas where digital gauges were submerged. In the event of another major flooding event, the hydrologist said local officials will be able to eyeball how high the flood stage of rivers and creeks are and call that information into the weather service. The event has also prompted the NWS to review how it issues flood alerts. For the first time, they will issue major river flood alerts through a weather radio so businesses and residents know what to expect. Source: <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/25105979/detail.html>

U.S. warn citizens as India probe shooting. Australia and the United States issued warnings to their citizens against traveling to India September 20 after Indian police said they found traces of explosives in the car that blew up minutes after two men wearing helmets and raincoats fired at a Taiwanese tourist bus September 19 outside the historic Jama Masjid mosque in New Delhi. Indian authorities played down the shooting and said it could be the work of local criminals, but a government source said militant action could not be ruled out. Interior ministry officials said the two incidents may be connected, and the government has directed the police to step up investigation and tighten security across the city, which will host the Commonwealth Games between October 3-14. In addition, an e-mail purportedly from the Indian Mujahideen, a home-grown Islamist group with links to militants in Pakistan, was sent to BBC and some local media after the attack. The statement threatened attacks on the games. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68J33O20100920>

INTERNATIONAL

Iran confirms massive Stuxnet infection of industrial systems. Officials in Iran confirmed that the Stuxnet worm infected at least 30,000 Windows PCs in the country, multiple Iranian news services reported September 25. Experts from Iran's Atomic Energy Organization also reportedly met recently to discuss how to remove the malware. Stuxnet, considered by many security researchers to be the most sophisticated malware ever, was first spotted in mid-June by VirusBlokAda, a little-known security firm based in Belarus. A month later Microsoft acknowledged that the worm targeted Windows PCs that managed large-scale industrial-control systems in manufacturing and utility companies. Those control systems, called SCADA, for "supervisory control and data acquisition," operate everything from power plants and factory machinery to oil pipelines and military installations. According to researchers with U.S.-based antivirus vendor Symantec, Iran was hardest

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hit by Stuxnet. Nearly 60 percent of all infected PCs in the earliest-known infection were located in that country. Since then, experts have amassed evidence that Stuxnet has been attacking SCADA systems since at least January 2010. Meanwhile, others have speculated that Stuxnet was created by a state-sponsored team of programmers, and designed to cripple Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9188018/Iran_confirms_massive_Stuxnet_infection_of_industrial_systems

Jet evacuated in Sweden after threat. Canadian police are investigating whether a phoned-in hoax caused a Pakistani jet to be diverted to Stockholm, Sweden for several hours September 25 for fear that one of its passengers was carrying explosives. Police evacuated 273 people from the jet, and briefly detained a Canadian man, after an anonymous caller in Canada tipped-off authorities that the suspect was carrying explosives. No explosives were found on the man, who was released after questioning by police, or on the Boeing 777 from Pakistan International Airlines, which had been bound from Toronto to Karachi, Pakistan. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said it was investigating whether the incident was a "terrorism hoax." Swedish police described the suspect as a Canadian citizen born in 1982. Initially they said he was of Pakistani background but later said they were not sure. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/09/25/world/europe/AP-EU-Sweden-Plane.html?_r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss

Seven arrested over more melamine-tainted milk found in China. Another melamine food-safety scandal has occurred in China. Authorities in the Shanxi province have arrested seven people suspected of producing 26 tons of melamine-tainted milk powder. One of the arrested is the general manager of Jinfulai Dairy Company, which produced and sold the tainted dairy product throughout China and overseas. If he and the others are charged with food safety crimes, they could face the death penalty. Melamine is a toxic chemical used in plastics production, but it is also high in nitrogen and has been used by some dairy producers in China to fool protein-content tests. Source: http://english.ntdtv.com/ntdtv_en/ns_china/2010-09-21/516351192717.html

Was Stuxnet built to attack Iran's nuclear program? A highly sophisticated computer worm that has spread through Iran, Indonesia and India was built to destroy operations at one target: possibly Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor. That's the emerging consensus of security experts who have examined the Stuxnet worm. In recent weeks, they have broken the cryptographic code behind the software and taken a look at how the worm operates in test environments. Researchers agree that Stuxnet was built by a very sophisticated and capable attacker — possibly a nation-state — and it was designed to destroy something big. Though it was first developed more than 1 year ago, Stuxnet was discovered in July 2010, when a Belarus-based security company found the worm on computers belonging to an Iranian client. Since then it has been the subject of ongoing study by security researchers, who say they have never seen anything like it before. Now, after months of private speculation, some of the researchers who know Stuxnet best say that it may have been built to sabotage Iran's nukes. Last week a well-respected expert on industrial systems security published an analysis of the worm which targets Siemens software systems, and suggested that it may have been used to sabotage Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor. The Siemens expert simulated a Siemens industrial network and then analyzed the worm's attack. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9186920/Was_Stuxnet_built_to_attack_Iran_s_nuclear_program

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

(California) Hackers steal hundreds of credit-card numbers from restaurant patrons. Visits to several California-based restaurants turned out much more expensive than customers ever imagined. Police in Roseville, California, the week of September 13 revealed that nearly 200 customers had their credit-card numbers stolen after patronizing the eateries. While the police did not reveal which restaurants were affected due to the ongoing investigation, they said the restaurants themselves are not responsible. "We believe the breach is not actually at the restaurant but a third-party vendor that's in the process between using your credit card at the restaurant and actually billing the bank," a police captain told 3KCRA. Because of the complexity of the scheme, Roseville police have asked the Secret Service for help catching the criminals. In Davis, police are dealing with similar issues. They have seen a 50 percent increase in identity thefts. While police will not say where the cards are being copied, they revealed that crooks use them at Target stores in the Bay Area and as far away as Irvine. Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2010/09/24/hackers-steal-hundreds-of-credit-card-numbers-from-restaurant-patrons/>

FBI: 'Massive frauds' uncovered. An FBI official told the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee September 22 the bureau has uncovered "massive frauds" in its ongoing effort to fight financial crime. The assistant director who heads the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division told the panel "the FBI has continued to uncover massive frauds, including newly identified Ponzi schemes." New corporate fraud cases are up by 111 percent, he said, while high-yield securities frauds have grown by more than 200 percent. "In the last three years alone, the FBI has seen the number of mortgage fraud cases steadily climb from 1,200 in 2007 to over 3,000 in 2010," the assistant director said. "Nearly 70 percent of these pending cases represent losses to financial institutions and other victims exceeding \$1 million. In many of these cases the loss far exceeds \$1 million." Operation Stolen Dreams, a take-down of mortgage fraud schemes throughout the country, "demonstrates just how rampant mortgage fraud is in this country," he said. Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/09/22/FBI-Massive-frauds-uncovered/UPI-57061285191980/

(Florida) Fla. bank robbers strap bomb to abducted teller. A bank teller was kidnapped early September 24 from his home by robbers who strapped a suspected bomb to his chest and used him to steal money from a Bank of America branch near the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida according to the FBI. The suspected explosive device was safely removed, and the teller was brought out of the bank shortly before noon. The device remained in the bank at midday and authorities were working to detonate it, said a lieutenant of the Coral Gables Police Department. A major South Florida thoroughfare, U.S. 1, was closed for hours in both directions at the height of rush hour. Three local schools were on lockdown as a precaution, and the University of Miami sent out a campus-wide alert. The incident began with a home invasion at an apartment complex in the suburb of Kendall, where the bank teller lived. Three suspects later took the teller to the Coral Gables bank, used him to steal an undetermined amount of cash, and then made a getaway in a stolen red Ford Mustang. Police were still investigating whether the teller was involved in the crime or just a victim. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j84bUVbCDLc9v6t1PQMxS2XPx-FwD9IED4J81>

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(Colorado) Corporate ID thieves mining the store. Dozens of businesses in Colorado, and probably thousands more nationally, are victims of a new and easy form of identity theft where corporate data is hijacked and millions of dollars in phony credit purchases are made. All it takes is an Internet connection and, in some cases, as little as a \$10 fee to alter the name of a corporate officer or the address of a company's registered agent on public records. Once that is done, thieves acquire corporate credit in multiples much higher than the average consumer can get. And most companies might never know it is happening until it is too late and credit ratings have been trashed. The nation's secretary of state offices — the agencies that usually register corporations and maintain public databases on them — have few protections to stop the Internet-based theft. In Colorado, for example, anyone can access the online databases and make changes since there is no password protection. "We're just now getting a handle on the problem," said a spokeswoman for the National Association of Secretaries of State. Such inaction has business owners fuming and, in turn, scratching their heads. Thieves are also relying on Dunn & Bradstreet — the business equivalent of a consumer credit reporting bureau — as unwitting accomplices. The company provides credit ratings on businesses and corroborates any reported changes through secretary of state offices — where the fraud occurs in the first place. Police investigators have so far identified 48 Colorado businesses — many of them easily recognized — affected by the crime and expect to find dozens more. Source: http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_16149416

(New York) Man tries to rob bank with bomb threat. Redford, Michigan police said a man who claimed to have a bomb tried to rob a Chase bank branch on Telegraph Road September 22. Police said the man entered the bank at about 11 a.m. and slipped a note to a teller that demanded money and stated he had a bomb. The teller told police the man flashed a small black book that, when opened, had a timer and what appeared to be a bomb. Police said the teller did not react and just looked at the man for several seconds before he turned and left the bank. Police said the man is also suspected of being responsible for a previous attempt to rob the bank last month. Surveillance pictures of the man from the bank's security cameras have been released by police. Source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/25118073/detail.html>

Under piles of paperwork, a foreclosure system in chaos. The nation's overburdened foreclosure system is riddled with faked documents, forged signatures and lenders who take shortcuts reviewing borrower's files, according to court documents and interviews with attorneys, housing advocates and company officials. The problems, which are so widespread that some judges approving the foreclosures ignore them, are coming to light after Ally Financial, the country's fourth-biggest mortgage lender, halted home evictions in 23 states this week. During the housing boom, millions of homeowners got easy access to mortgages while providing virtually no proof of their income or background. Now, as millions of Americans are being pushed out of the homes they can no longer afford, the foreclosure process is producing far more paperwork than anyone can read, and making it vulnerable to fraud. Ally Financial is now double-checking to make sure all documents are in order after lawsuits uncovered that a single employee of the company's GMAC mortgage unit signed off on 10,000 foreclosure papers per month without checking whether the information justified an eviction. Many of the homeowners in fact, might have been in default. Some might have been unfairly targeted. But the flawed process is creating an opening for borrowers to contest some of the more than 2 million foreclosures that have taken place since the real estate crisis began. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/22/AR2010092206146.html>

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Senators to probe SEC's Stanford investigation. A federal watchdog's report accusing the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of bungling its investigation of an alleged \$7 billion dollar Ponzi scheme will be the subject of a U.S. Senate hearing September 22. The report authored by the SEC Inspector General said the regulator had suspected as early as 1997 that the suspect was running a Ponzi scheme, but did nothing to stop it until late 2005. The SEC filed charges against the suspect in February 2009, accusing the Texas financier and three of his companies of selling billions of dollars of fraudulent certificates of deposit. But the report went largely unnoticed as it was released mid-April, on the same day the SEC filed civil fraud charges against Goldman Sachs. "This report has not received the attention that it deserves and it is unclear what changes have been made at the SEC as a result," a Senator told the SEC Chairman in a recent letter. The Senate Banking Committee has scheduled testimony from SEC Enforcement; the director of inspections and examinations for the agency; and the regional director of its Fort Worth, Texas, office. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68L2CR20100922>

(Nevada; Florida; Arizona) Officials: 13,800 credit cards 'skimmed' in alleged scheme. Federal charges have been filed against a Las Vegas, Nevada man in connection with the production and use of counterfeit credit and debit cards that allegedly were encoded with information skimmed from gas pumps in Las Vegas and elsewhere. The 41-year-old suspect is charged in a criminal indictment with five counts of bank fraud, possession of 15 or more counterfeit access devices, possession of access device-making equipment and aggravated identity theft, said the U.S. Attorney for Nevada. From about April 16, 2009, to May 4, 2010, the indictment alleges the suspect and others installed devices used to steal magnetic information from credit and debit cards — known as "skimming" — at gas pumps in the Las Vegas area, as well as in Florida and Arizona. The suspect and others used computers, encoders and software programs to transfer the stolen credit and debit card information to counterfeit credit and debit cards through a process called re-encoding, authorities said. A re-encode is when someone uses a real credit card and erases the magnetic information on the magnetic stripe to replace it with the stolen information. The suspect and others allegedly skimmed about 13,800 credit and debit card account numbers using this system, and unlawfully used the stolen account numbers to fraudulently obtain about \$591,872 from more than 10 financial institutions, officials said. Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/sep/20/officials-man-skimmed-13800-credit-cards-alleged-s/>

IETF approves e-crime reporting format. An Internet standards group has approved an electronic crimes reporting format, which may eventually give security researchers a cohesive, broad set of data to gauge online crime. The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) approved a customized version of the XML-based Instant Object Description Exchange Format (IODEF). Extensions have been added that are appropriate for creating standard e-crime reports. The format allows for unambiguous time stamps, support for different languages and a feature to attach samples of malicious code. It solves the problem of inconsistent reports, which make it harder to spot trends and react faster. The goal is for groups hit by Internet crime such as banks will be able to mine a centralized databases. If a bank is experiencing an attack, it could query the database to find out ranges of IP (Internet Protocol) addresses that have been used for offenses such as phishing attacks. Further queries could determine if other banks have been hit by attacks and analyze spam messages to see if there are common patterns in the grammar or if the attacks originate from a certain area. All of the information could then be used to contact ISPs to take steps to stop the abuse. The Anti-Phishing Working Group, which has been instrumental in developing the reporting format, plans to run a trial to see how

organizations can share the data in the format. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9186778/IETF_approves_e_crime_reporting_format

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

(Vermont) State: VY leaks had little effect on public. No significant adverse health effects from radiological exposures have resulted from the operation of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant during 2009, according to a report issued September 22 by the Vermont Department of Health (DOH). Even including the discovery of a leak of tritiated water at the plant, the DOH found no instances of non-compliance with the state's radiological health rule. "However, the identification of radioactive materials in water leaking from the station's structures, systems and components through unmonitored pathways in 2009 and 2010 has prompted an expanded long-term monitoring effort," the report stated. The surveillance report for 2010 will include detailed information and data related to the event. It also provides a long-term comparison of previous surveillance reports, which shows no significant increase in radiological exposures due to the plant's operation, including in the period following a 20 percent power uprate in 2006. According to the report, samples of fish, milk, water, soil and sediment showed no levels of radioactivity "outside historical range." The report also states "an analysis of health statistics for people who live in the communities surrounding Vermont Yankee shows that health outcomes do not differ significantly from people in the rest of Windham County, elsewhere in Vermont, or the U.S. as a whole." The primary concern about chronic low-level exposure to ionizing radiation is its potential to increase people's risk of developing cancer, states the report. DOH reviews data for new cancer cases (the incidence rate) and cancer mortality for Windham County and the six towns in the emergency preparedness zone (EPZ). The rates calculated in the 2009 report were similar to those in the 2008 report, states the DOH. According to a review of the data conducted by the DOH, cancer incidence in the EPZ is lower than in Windham County as a whole, the state, and the country. Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_16149302

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(Tennessee) Church evacuated after bomb threat. Emergency personnel evacuated approximately 30 staff members for a half hour at the First United Methodist Church on Webb Ave. and Braun St. in Crossville, Tennessee, September 22 after a bomb threat was phoned into the church. A staff member of the church, said she answered the phone and a voice said, "There's a bomb in the building. You have 30 minutes." She said, "I called 911 and then pulled the fire alarm to evacuate." The Crossville assistant fire chief and a Crossville police patrolman, along with Cumberland County EMS, responded to the scene. After investigating the church grounds, they said there was no evidence of anything suspicious and no deliveries had been made to the church. "We're going to wait the 30 minutes and they have the option of re-entering the building if they want," the assistant fire chief said. The voice over the telephone was disguised with a voice modulator. After 30 minutes staff returned to the building. There were no injuries involved with the evacuation and there were no children in the church at the time of the threat. Source: <http://crossville-chronicle.com/local/x1535826970/Church-evacuated-after-bomb-threat>

(North Carolina) Explosion closes N.C. mall; no injuries reported. Officials said an explosion in the basement of a Raleigh, North Carolina, mall led to the temporary closure of the shopping center, but no injuries were reported. The explosion September 24 blew the top off an electrical box, cutting

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power to mall stores. Three shoppers were trapped in an elevator for about 45 minutes until power was restored. The cause of the explosion had not been determined. Business returned to normal within a few hours. Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/8349235/>

(Iowa) GMT in Waverly was in lockdown during standoff. GMT locked down its Waverly, Iowa machine-components plant for several hours September 23 after a report a person was making threats against its employees. The situation developed shortly before 10 a.m. and prompted law enforcement to track down the individual in Shell Rock, according to the Bremer County Sheriff's Office. Deputies and Waverly police apprehended the man about 1 hour later. Initially, the man refused to get out of his pickup, but authorities at the scene were "able to talk him out of his vehicle without incident," the Bremer County sheriff said. The sheriff's office and GMT company officials did not release specifics about the nature of the alleged threats or how they were reportedly made. The sheriff's office did report the man never gained access to GMT facilities. Source: http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/article_aca3f734-c749-11df-9243-001cc4c03286.html

(Arizona) Tucson fire officials say arson is to blame for Executive Inn Fire. Tucson, Arizona Fire Officials said a break-in and arson are to blame for an early morning fire at a hotel. The fire happened around 3:30 a.m. September 23 at the Executive Inn and Suites at 333 W. Drachman. Forty-two firefighters and more than a dozen trucks were dispatched to the scene. Tucson Fire tells KOLD News 13 a hotel employee called 911 after spotting a fire in the office on the first floor. Firefighters were able to contain fire and smoke damage to the first floor. Damage is estimated at \$100,000. The manager of the hotel said a guest reported seeing two men break into the office a half hour prior to the fire. Thirteen guests and three employees were evacuated from the building at the time of the fire. Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=13203581>

(Nebraska) Authorities: Gunman wounds 3, kills self in Neb. A man shot and wounded three people at Americold Logistics, a cold-storage facility in Crete, Nebraska, where he worked, before apparently shooting and killing himself September 22, authorities said. The Saline County sheriff said that about 35 people were at the Americold facility when the gunman opened fire at about 10 p.m. The gunman worked at the plant, he said. About 50 officers responded to reports of the shooting, unsure of whether the shooter was still a threat. "When we first came across him, it appeared that it was a self-inflicted wound that ended it," the sheriff said, referring to the gunman. Two of the wounded were taken to a Lincoln hospital. The other was treated at the Crete Area Medical Center. Their names and conditions were not available, and it was unclear whether they also worked for Americold. The Americold facility is a few miles south of Crete and next to a Farmland Foods plant. Both were locked down immediately after the shooting, although authorities do not believe the gunman ventured onto Farmland property. By early September 23, Farmland had reopened and Americold workers were allowed to leave. Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_nebraska_storage_shooting;_ylt=Ar8kogksbVsraOEm.jlKHLas0NUE;_ylu=X3oDMTQwOGNpaDFxBGfzc2V0A2FwLzlwMTAwOTIzL3VzX25lYnJhc2thX3N0b3JhZ2Vfc2hvb3RpbmcEY2NvZGUDbW9zdHBvcHVzYXIEY3BvcwM2BHBvcwMzBHB0A2hWVfy29rZQRzZWMDDeW5faGVhZGxpbnVf

(Wyoming) Arson blamed for hotel fire. The fire that destroyed the historic Hitching Post Inn recently in Cheyenne, Wyoming, was intentionally set, authorities said. Cheyenne Fire and Rescue responded September 15 to the hotel to find flames spurting through the roof of the front lobby. It

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burned throughout the night and was deemed under control the next morning. On September 20, a special agent in charge said the investigation and examination of the crime scene concluded September 19. However, the local office of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will work with Cheyenne fire and police investigators to track down suspects. JM Hospitality bought the property from New Jersey-based Mantiff Cheyenne Hospitality in June in the wake of Mantiff filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in February. The 10.82 acre property was appraised for more than \$6 million January 1. CJM Hospitality officials said they were putting in \$500,000 worth of renovations. They said they had planned to reopen the west side of the building and two unattached structures in coming weeks. Source:

http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2010/09/21/news/01top_09-21-10.txt

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

FCC approves unlicensed white space use. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in a long-awaited move, approved the use of unlicensed white space spectrum, clearing the way for new classes of devices that take advantage of what has been dubbed “super WiFi.” The FCC voted 5-0 to approve the plan, nearly 2 years after the agency first approved the use of white space spectrum — the tiny slivers of spectrum between TV broadcast stations. The 2008 order was delayed by lawsuits from broadcasters, church groups and a famous singer, all of whom argued such use of the spectrum could interfere with TV stations and wireless microphones. With the new vote, the FCC handed a victory to Google, Microsoft, Dell, Motorola and other companies that have been pushing for the spectrum to be unleashed. The FCC chairman said the vote will provide “unique opportunities for innovators and entrepreneurs.” Source: <http://www.fiercewireless.com/story/fcc-approves-unlicensed-white-space-use/2010-09-24>

U.S. wants to make it easier to wiretap the Internet. Federal law enforcement and national security officials are preparing to seek sweeping new regulations for the Internet, arguing that their ability to wiretap criminal and terrorism suspects is “going dark” as people increasingly communicate online instead of by telephone. Essentially, officials want Congress to require all services that enable communications — including encrypted e-mail transmitters like BlackBerry, social networking Web sites like Facebook and software that allows direct “peer to peer” messaging like Skype — to be technically capable of complying if served with a wiretap order. The mandate would include being able to intercept and unscramble encrypted messages. The bill, which the U.S. President’s administration plans to submit to lawmakers in 2011, raises fresh questions about how to balance security needs with protecting privacy and fostering innovation. And because security services around the world face the same problem, it could set an example that is copied globally. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/27/us/27wiretap.html? r=1>

(South Carolina) Thieves steal copper from cell phone towers. The Greenville County Sheriff’s Office arrested two men in connection to a series of copper thefts from cell phone tower locations in Greenville, South Carolina. Dating back to the first part of August, through mid-September, the men are accused of accessing the areas around cell phone towers and stealing copper wire and bars. Deputies said they would then take the copper to area scrapyards where they would sell it. One of the men, who was arrested September 18, faces three counts of Injury to Real Property to obtain Nonferrous Metals, two counts each of Criminal Conspiracy and Grand Larceny, as well as one count each of Unlawful Possession/Transportation of Nonferrous Metals weighing more than 25 pounds

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and Petit Larceny. The other, who was arrested September 22, faces three counts each of Injury to Real Property to obtain Nonferrous Metals and Criminal Conspiracy, as well as one count each of Grand Larceny and Petit Larceny. Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2010/sep/23/thieves-steal-copper-cell-phone-towers-ar-868656/>

(South Carolina) SC gov: Feds should let prisons jam cell phones. Flanked by dozens of wardens and a prison officer authorities say was nearly killed in an attack planned with a smuggled cell phone, South Carolina's governor September 22 implored federal regulators to let the state jam the signals of cell phones being used illicitly by prisoners. "If we leave the things the way that they are, the federal government is fundamentally perpetuating an injustice, on the people of this state, and frankly, the people of this nation," he said at a maximum security prison in Columbia. He urged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to act on a nearly 2-year-old request from the corrections department director to conduct a pilot jamming program inside a state prison. The director said 30 other states signed on to that request. The FCC has taken no action on the petition. Regulators say a 1934 law allows only federal agencies, not state or local ones, to jam public airwaves, a position reiterated September 22 by the FCC's public safety and homeland security chief. "The problem with the South Carolina petition is, we can't waive federal statutes," he said. "As long as Congress has mandated that jamming is illegal, we have to abide by that law, and so does South Carolina." Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9ID7C483.htm>

Next generation of GPS satellites threatened by lack of coordination, GAO says. For the past 15 years, the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) has provided essential positioning, navigation and timing services not only to the military, but to civil and commercial activities including agriculture, aviation, power distribution and emergency services. But maintenance and future development of GPS is threatened by ambitious schedules that have not been backed up by appropriate oversight and coordination, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The deployment of the current generation of satellites and services, called GPS IIF, is more than 3 years behind schedule and has more than doubled its original cost estimate, GAO said. The next generation, GPS IIIA, appears to be on schedule but faces risks from a ground system that will not be completed until the launch of the first IIIA satellite, now scheduled for 2015. "The GPS constellation availability has improved, but in the longer term, a delay in the launch of the GPS IIIA satellites could still reduce the size of the constellation to fewer than 24 operational satellites — the number that the U.S. government commits to — which might not meet the needs of some GPS users," GAO warned in a report on challenges to the system. Source: <http://gcn.com/articles/2010/09/21/gps-next-gen-challenges.aspx>

(Michigan) Copper taken from communication tower in Flint valued at \$1M. Suspects made off with about \$1 million in copper from a communication tower on Branch Road near Davison Road in Flint, Michigan, according to police reports. Police are investigating the incident, which a Sprint communications repairman reported to police. He said the incident occurred some time between 9 a.m. and noon September 18, according to police. The man told police someone climbed over the west barbed-wire gate of the communication barrier and removed an air conditioning cover, along with copper pipes from the unit. The suspect then broke into a control room and removed a 30-pound copper plate. Wiring was also taken from the control room. The total value lost is estimated at \$1 million. Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2010/09/copper_taken_from_communicatio.html

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Lawmakers call for smart grid access to wireless spectrum. Two U.S. lawmakers have asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow Internet-connected, electricity-monitoring devices to access unused television spectrum. The FCC is scheduled to vote September 23 on final rules allowing mobile broadband devices to use the so-called white spaces, spectrum assigned for television use but not occupied by TV stations. But two U.S. Representatives, both California Democrats, called on the FCC to allow so-called smart grid devices — digital electricity meters for homes and businesses — to also use white-space spectrum. “As we continue to promote policies to expand broadband services, more and more consumers will expect to use their computer and wireless devices to monitor their energy usage in ‘real time’ whether they are at home, at work, or on vacation,” they wrote in a letter to the FCC September 21. The lawmakers want the FCC to allow smart grid devices, such as smart meters and home energy management systems, to use the white spaces, a spokeswoman for one of the representatives said. They are not advocating that electric utilities use the white spaces as broadband backhaul, she said. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9187100/Lawmakers_call_for_smart_grid_access_to_wireless_spectrum

Schools could get an Internet speed boost under FCC proposal. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is set to reform an annual \$2 billion E-Rate fund, aimed to bring faster and more affordable Internet connections to schools and libraries. The program has doled out more than \$22 billion since it was launched in 1998, helping to bring Internet connections to nearly all classrooms in America. But the connections have been slow and costly, and the Government Accountability Office said in 2009 the FCC had not set clear goals for E-Rate. In an order set for a vote September 23, the FCC chairman will propose that schools and libraries tap into unused fiber networks in towns and cities. Known as “dark fiber,” those unused lines can help lift average connection speeds inside and outside classrooms. Source: http://voices.washingtonpost.com/posttech/2010/09/schools_could_get_an_internet.html

NIST research could boost mobile device security. Particle physics could be the key to creating a new generation of wireless technology that would be more secure and resistant to interference than current methods, according to the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). The research could pave the way for federal agencies like the U.S. military to create wireless devices with signals that would be difficult for enemies to intercept or scramble. If NIST research and analysis is correct, it may be possible to create an oscillator that could leverage the spin of electrons to generate microwaves for use in mobile devices. The effect of this process could be used to create a cell-phone oscillator that enables the frequency of the devices to be changed very quickly. This would make the signals from the devices very hard for enemies to intercept or jam, making them optimal for use by the military or other defense or intelligence agencies, according to NIST. Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=227500277>

(Massachusetts) Two copper thefts investigated in Milford. Police are investigating the thefts of copper from a Pine Street church and a Verizon substation in Milford, Massachusetts, sometime September 19. The police chief said someone stole \$1,800 worth of the metal from the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 23 Pine St. An officer responded to the church at 12:20 p.m. September 20, when a church employee told him a copper downspout was removed from the back of the building. In his report, the officer said the copper was about 16 feet long. The employee said he noticed

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September 19 a different downspout had been tampered with, but not taken. Older buildings are targets for such theft. Another officer responded to the Verizon tower at 2:27 p.m. September 20 after an employee called police to report the theft. The employee said somebody cut the lock to the gate door and entered the facility sometime during the week of September 13. He said employees have reported five or six different incidents of theft over the last few weeks, and that police are looking for trucks that might be leaving the tower area. The investigation remains open. Source:

<http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/x1680536952/Two-copper-thefts-investigated-in-Milford>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Hyundai to recall Sonata sedans in U.S. Hyundai Motor, South Korea's top automaker, will recall some 139,500 Sonata sedans sold in the United States, due to problems with the steering wheel that could cause a loss or reduction of control. The automaker announced the recall after the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) opened a probe into steering problems in August, a move analysts said was aimed at heading off criticism that it was slow to respond. No accidents or injuries occurred as a result of improper assembly or loose steering connections, Hyundai said in an e-mail statement September 26. The company's latest recall comes as the automaker seeks to increase production of the Sonata, its best-selling model in America, at its plant in Alabama. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68P0BO20100927>

DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

(Texas) Red River Army Depot evacuated as precaution. A suspicious bag with powder forced a temporary evacuation of Red River Army Depot in Hooks, Texas, September 20. Depot officials said the bag was found in a production area around 11:30 a.m. Nearly 300 people working at the facility were evacuated while authorities checked the powdery substance. The all-clear was given about 1 hour later and the employees returned to work. Authorities did not say what the substance was. The depot modifies vehicles for military use. Source: <http://www.ktbs.com/news/25091272/detail.html>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Massachusetts) MA jail in lockdown after possible contamination. A Plymouth, Massachusetts prison is in lockdown after an officer felt burning after being exposed to a white powdery substance. A sheriff's department spokesman, told WATD radio that the Plymouth County Correctional Facility was placed in lockdown after the possible contamination was reported just before noon September 21. He said the substance, held in a small container, was set for routine disposal when about five officers working the property room were exposed to it. The property room is where materials brought in by inmates are stored. He said one man was transported to a local hospital and the others were checked at the scene. The spokesman also said prisoners generally are not permitted in the area and none were exposed to the substance. He said hazardous materials experts were on scene to identify the substance. Source:

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1283153&srvc=rss>

(Maryland) Bomb threat at ECI investigated. Authorities in search of a possible bomb at the ECI state prison in Westover, Maryland instead uncovered a disposable razor in a closet that stores biohazard

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materials for a medical unit. The incident locked down one of two main housing units for several hours September 18 and involved Anne Arundel County police that alerted ECI of the threat that proved bogus, a spokesman at the state Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services confirmed September 21. The package containing the antiseptic-coated razor was opened with the aid of a robot after a trained police dog led authorities to it, the spokesman said. To still be determined is how the razor got into the closet, he said. The area of the compound where it was found is off limits to the public, he noted. Source:

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20100921/NEWS01/100921043/Bomb-threat-at-ECI-investigated>

(Indiana) Fire set at home of policeman was arson, officials say. A fire discovered September 20 at the Far-Southside home of an Indianapolis, Indiana police officer was intentionally set, investigators said. Around 1:15 a.m., authorities said, someone set fire to the back porch area of the home occupied by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officer, his wife and their two children, ages 2 and 7. The blaze quickly gutted the house and a backyard pool, leaving the family homeless and causing \$100,000 in damage. IMPD and Indianapolis Fire Department investigators did not specify a motive or why they believe it was arson. They would not comment on reports that an incendiary device was used. The crime stunned neighbors in the tree-lined, neighborhood of brick homes. Neighbors were uncertain whether it was a random act of violence or a case of someone targeting a police officer. Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100921/LOCAL1801/9210332/Fire-set-at-home-of-policeman-was-arson-officials-say?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|IndyStar.com>

ENERGY

(Texas) FBI: Houston energy companies targeted by hackers. Houston, Texas energy companies have been targeted by hackers who are attempting to take down the U.S. economy, the FBI said. The FBI, security leader for Dupont and a former CIA security expert who worked directly under other security investigators recently spoke candidly with Houston's energy leaders about the problem. The FBI agent said America is literally at war fighting off economic attacks that come by the thousands daily via the Internet. Most of the time the FBI said energy companies in Houston don't even know they've been compromised. "It is a little scary because the victim organizations span everything from small law firms up to huge multi-national corporations, and it's not just a government problem anymore," said a man, who works for Mandiant, a computer forensics firm that is often hired by the U.S. to seek out and eliminate economic espionage. At a recent symposium, investigators told energy leaders that most of the hackers are believed to be coming from inside Russia and China. And while most of the attacks come during business hours on the other side of the globe, some are coming from within on the inside. Source: <http://www.kens5.com/news/FBI-Houston-energy-companies-targeted-by-hackers-103614224.html>

(Maine) Man stole copper grounding wires from poles, police say. A Waterville, Maine man was arrested late September 21 after a caller from Bartlett Street reported seeing someone stealing copper wire off utility poles in Waterville. The man, 32, was later found with 26 lengths of copper wire in the back of his pickup truck, according to the deputy police chief. The suspect was charged with aggravated criminal mischief and aggravated theft in the case, the deputy police chief said September 22. Police September 22 contacted Central Maine Power Co. (CMP) and spoke with a line

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supervisor who went around and surveyed poles in the area. The deputy police said the supervisor reported at least 50 poles had been stripped of copper wire, so CMP is in the process of surveying a larger area to see if more wire is missing. Source: http://www.onlinesentinel.com/news/police-man-stole-copper-grounding-wires-from-poles_2010-09-22.html

(Oregon) Drilling pad at Newberry project in Oregon vandalized. Reported locally, there has been some vandalism at a drilling pad of Davenport Power's Newberry geothermal project in Oregon. The project is a joint project by Davenport Power with AltaRock, and recipient of Department of Energy R&D funding for enhanced geothermal system development. According to the Bend Bulletin: "The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of theft and criminal mischief at one of Davenport Power's geothermal drill pads west of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument September 16. People broke into a structure around the well, stole scientific testing instruments and damaged some seismic devices, said the president of Davenport Power. They also broke the cap off of a water well and threw rocks into it, he said. He said he did not know how much the damage would cost to fix or replace, or how long of a delay it would cause, but added that the vandalism would not delay the overall geothermal project." Source: <http://thinkgeoenergy.com/archives/5851>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(California) Ginger candy recalled in California for lead. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) warned consumers this week not to eat "Ginger Candy" imported from China due to potential lead contamination. According to a CDPH press release, the candy, which was manufactured by Dai IyoBu in China, and distributed by Anhing Corporation in Los Angeles, contained more than twice the amount of lead that California allows in candy products. California considers candies with lead levels in excess of 0.10 parts per million (ppm) of lead to be contaminated; the Ginger Candy test results revealed 0.25 ppm of lead. Anhing has recalled the candy and is working with distributors and retailers to ensure the product is taken off store shelves. Although there have been no illnesses associated with the consumption of the "Ginger Candy," anyone who has purchased the candy should discard it immediately. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/09/ginger-candy-recalled-in-california-for-lead/>

(Pennsylvania; Maryland; New Jersey) Move over, bedbug: The stink bug has landed. Damage to fruit and vegetable crops from stink bugs in Middle Atlantic states has reached critical levels, according to a government report. That is in addition to the headaches the bugs are giving homeowners who cannot keep them out of their living rooms — especially the people who unwittingly step on them. When stink bugs are crushed or become irritated, they emit a pungent odor that is sometimes described as skunklike. Farmers in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other states are battling a pest whose appetite has left dry boreholes in everything from apples and grapes to tomatoes and soybeans. Stink bugs have made their mark on 20 percent of the apple crop at Scenic View Orchards in Maryland. Other farmers report far worse damage. Government and university researchers said they need more time to study the bug, which has been in the United States since about 1998. Native to Asia, it was first found in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and has no natural enemies here. Some people noticed an increase in the stink bug population last year, but all agreed that this year's swarm was out of control. Researchers said the bugs reproduced at a faster rate this year, but they are unsure why. Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/09/27/704985/move-over-bedbugs-stink-bugs-have.html>

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Professor warns against arsenic ‘on your plate’. High levels of arsenic in rice and rice products present serious hazards to public health, a professor from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland said in a seminar at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire September 23. The professor discussed the dangers and pervasiveness of arsenic, which has long been linked with cancer, in a seminar, “Arsenic on Your Plate.” Although health organizations and governments have stressed the need to regulate arsenic levels in water, the professor said there are no corresponding standards for arsenic in food. He cited research to demonstrate that rice is particularly susceptible to arsenic contamination, and that diets heavy in rice can be related to arsenic-related health conditions, including cancer. Rice absorbs a substantially larger amount of arsenic than other crops because the water used to flood rice paddies is able to “mobilize” arsenic from the soil, the professor said. Levels of arsenic contamination are higher in rice grown in the United States than in any other nation, according to research the professor cited in his lecture. Rice from the South, specifically Arkansas and Texas, shows the highest rates of arsenic poisoning because of the arsenic-laden chemicals farmers previously used to cultivate cotton there, he said. Source:

<http://thedartmouth.com/2010/09/24/news/arsenic>

(Colorado) Southern Colorado dairy herd to be released from quarantine following bovine TB infections. Colorado agriculture officials said they plan the week of September 20 to release the quarantine on a dairy herd whose cows were diagnosed with bovine tuberculosis in April. The Colorado Department of Agriculture said September 21 that tests showed a “significant level” of infection within the 500-cow southern Colorado herd, but that the premises have been disinfected. Agriculture officials also have been tracing the movement of livestock that were at the operation before the quarantine. The 500 cows were killed, but officials said no meat from infected animals ever reached the human food chain, and there is no public health concern from pasteurized milk. Commercially sold milk is pasteurized. Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/lifestyle/sns-ap-co--cowquarantine,0,7856508.story>

Rains may disrupt harvest in northern Midwest. Rains forecast in some parts of the northern U.S. Midwest the week of September 20 may disrupt harvest of corn and soybeans, while the weather is likely to be favorable in the southern areas, a forecaster said September 20. The six- to 10-day weather forecast shows that rainfall is expected to be above normal in the north and below normal in the south, an agricultural meteorologist with Telvent DTN said. “The heaviest activity will favor northern Illinois,” he said. Chicago soy rose more than 2 percent September 20 to its highest level since June 2009 on concerns that dry weather may hurt a soon-to-be-planted crop in Brazil, while corn rose to a two-year top amid strong demand and worries about U.S. yields. Corn to be harvested in the western U.S. Midwest should show better yields than disappointing levels seen in the dry eastern region, but is unlikely to make up for the deficit, analysts said. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68J0IK20100920>

(New York) Consumer alert - Salmonella in ground beef. New York’s state agriculture commissioner September 21 alerted consumers that Hamilton Corner Meat Market Inc., located at 1 Hamilton Place, New York, New York 10031, is recalling all packages of “ground beef” sold from bulk September 7 due to the presence of Salmonella. The recalled “ground beef” is sold in bulk from the store’s meat case and is coded with the date of purchase — September 7, 2010. The product was sold retail from the store’s sole location at 1 Hamilton Place. The contamination was discovered after a sample,

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collected by a food inspector and analyzed by the New York State Food Laboratory, revealed the presence of Salmonella in a bulk sample. Source: <http://readme.readmedia.com/Consumer-Alert-Salmonella-in-Ground-Beef/1728430>

(Washington) Deadly illness spreading among bighorn sheep. Washington state wildlife biologists decided to kill dozens of sick bighorns west of the Yakima River Canyon in the spring of 2010 in hopes of keeping a pneumonia outbreak from reaching the herd across the river. It did not work. Roughly two-thirds of the lambs born this spring east of the canyon are believed to have died. And although biologists have not verified deaths among the adults, hunters on a special-permit hunt on that side of the river reported seeing adult rams coughing the week of September 13. Tissue samples from the rams killed by those hunters will be disease-tested at Washington State University, but the findings are expected to take weeks. Until then, state Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists only know what they see. And it does not look good. “Something bad is going on,” said a Yakima-based state wildlife biologist. “If the lambs are dying, hey, the symptoms are there — the warning signs are flashing in front of us. Almost without a doubt the bacteria has jumped the river and is now on the east side.” The initial breakout on the west side of the canyon began in December, when at least 10 bighorns died from pneumonia, most of them north of Umtanum Creek. Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2012945302_birds20m.html

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Oklahoma) Bomb scare spurs Sapulpa schools evacuation. The Tulsa Police Department’s Bomb Squad detonated a 6-inch metal pipe September 24 after its discovery at Sapulpa Junior High School in Sapulpa, Oklahoma forced the evacuation of that school and two others. No explosives or any other material were found in the device, authorities said. “It was just a piece of pipe that was covered on both ends,” said a school resource officer for the Sapulpa Police Department. “It had the appearance of what we suspected, maybe a pipe bomb. However, once we got the situation taken care of, nothing was inside the pipe whatsoever.” The discovery of the device in the junior high’s science wing just after 9 a.m. led to the evacuation of Woodlawn Elementary School and Sapulpa’s junior high and high schools. About 2,000 students were involved. No one has been arrested in connection with the scare. Classes resumed at about 12:15 p.m. Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100925_12_A15_CUTLIN792457

(Illinois) Army veteran in Ill. accused of threatening Obama. An Army veteran arrested after a 7-hour standoff was charged September 22 with threatening to kill the U.S. President as part of what authorities said was his plan to ignite a war between Muslims and Christians and “start an apocalypse.” He added he carried out the bomb ploy because he is “anti-government.” Federal agents arrested the 50-year-old suspect when he surrendered September 22 at his home in East St. Louis, Illinois after the confrontation, in which he insisted a bulky belt he wore and three storage containers on his Fairview Heights property were packed with explosives. The FBI and the criminal complaint said the belt turned out to carry only inert putty-like material — similar to children’s molding clay — made to look like high-grade explosives, with wires attached to a curling iron the suspect claimed was a triggering device. Nothing dangerous was found in the storage drums. The suspect was in custody and was scheduled to appear in federal court September 23 on one count

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apiece of making a threat against the President and making false threats to detonate an explosive device. Bond was not immediately set. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/22/AR2010092204678.html>

(Ohio) Threat to blow up school leads to arrest of student. A 16-year-old Edgewood High School student has been charged with making threats on Facebook to blow up the Trenton, Ohio school and shoot classmates, according to the Butler County Sheriff's Office. Detectives were alerted late September 20 that the teen was making threats on his online social networking page. The teen was arrested September 21 on charges of inducing panic, a second-degree felony. A police spokesman said a student saw the threat on the teen's Facebook page and contacted the school resource officer, who in turn called detectives and school administrators. "The system worked the way it should," he said. The spokesman said the teen's parents were cooperative, and detectives were able to determine the boy had no explosive devices or guns to carry out his threats. Source: <http://www.middletownjournal.com/news/crime/threat-to-blow-up-school-leads-to-arrest-of-student-941055.html>

(Georgia) Coast clear after bomb threat at Atlanta preschool. Police found a can of paint, but no explosives after a bomb threat was called into an Atlanta, Georgia preschool shortly before 2 p.m. September 23. The incident shut down several streets around the Premier Academy Minnie Howell Child Development Center on Macedonia Road, just east of Hapeville, Georgia. An Atlanta police spokesman said the SWAT team, bomb squad, K-9 units and Zone 3 police combed the area with Atlanta fire standing by. But no device was found, just a can of paint outside the building. An all clear was given at 3:15 p.m., and parents were allowed to pick up their children. Source: <http://www.11alive.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=155323&catid=3>

(South Carolina) SC principal: 2nd student questioned in shooting. The principal of a Columbia, South Carolina high school where pipe bombs were discovered and disarmed after a shooting confirmed September 22 that a second student was being questioned in the incident. The Socastee High School principal said police asked the second student about the September 21 event at the school, and the student was released to his parents. The incident began when a freshman confronted an on-campus officer and fired a gun before being taken into custody, police said. Students were evacuated to a football field and bomb squads removed and disarmed the explosive devices. The students returned to school September 22 after walking through metal detectors, which will be used for the rest of the week. Detectives also interviewed other students about the incident and reports that comments had been posted on a social networking site before the shooting, the principal said. He could not confirm that any of the comments came from the freshman. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g2YDRgIGj-6ERPvABLwSG1ng81LAD9ID8ILG0>

(Illinois) 2 major loop government buildings evacuated. The Daley Center in Chicago, Illinois was evacuated September 22 after someone called in a bomb threat. Meanwhile in a separate incident, the Cook County Administration Building across the street was also evacuated, and fire trucks rushed to the Cook County Building adjacent to city hall, due to reports of smoke. Police responded at 7:10 a.m. to a bomb threat at the civil courthouse and office building at 50 W. Washington St., according to a Cook County sheriff's office spokesman. A bomb threat was also reported at Millennium Park, authorities said. As a precaution, employees were not let into the building as authorities conducted a

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search. Three suspicious bags were found on an unidentified floor and K-9 officers were called in to inspect the bags, according to the sheriff's department. It was determined the bags were not explosives and around 8:40 a.m., the building was cleared and reopened. Harrison Area Chicago Police detectives will investigate the incident, the police news affairs director said. In an unrelated incident, the fire department received calls of smoke on the eighth floors of both the Cook County Building, at 118 N. Clark St., and the Cook County Administration Building, across the street from the Daley Center at 69 W. Washington St. The administration building was evacuated. Fire trucks lined up in front of the County Building, but it did not appear to be evacuated. Firefighters found nothing upon arriving, officials said. Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/daley.center.threat.2.1925559.html>

Explosion near U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi. An explosion occurred September 22 in a cemetery not far from the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia. The police told Trend that the bomb exploded at 1:30 a.m. local time. No one was injured. A building in the cemetery was damaged. The police found another suspicious device at the cemetery, which they neutralized on the spot. The police said the bomb was a self-made device. An investigation is underway. Meanwhile, local residents said the explosion was powerful. Source: <http://en.trend.az/news/politics/foreign/1754548.html>

(California) Students evacuated after suspicious package found at USC. Students were evacuated from a building at the University of Southern California after a suspicious item was found on campus. The letter was discovered around 1 p.m. at the Hedco Neuro-Sciences building at Watt Way and Downey Way on the University Park Campus in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Police Department bomb squad was sent to the scene to investigate the package and students were being advised to stay away from the area. According to "The Daily Trojan," the packager has been determined not to be a threat. A campus spokesman said the suspicious item turned out to be a magazine with LED lights. Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-usc-evacuation-hedco-building,0,7569303.story>

(Connecticut) Police: Man threatened to blow up Putnam courthouse. A 38-year-old, of North Grosvenordale, Connecticut was charged with first-degree threatening September 21 after police said he threatened to blow up the Putnam courthouse. He was being held on a \$10,000 cash bond pending his appearance in Danielson Superior Court. Police said the man was talking on the phone to a court employee when he became upset and made a threat to "go to the courthouse and blow the place up." Judicial marshals on duty at the courthouse notified police and the building was evacuated. A bomb detection dog team from the state police emergency services unit made a precautionary sweep of the courthouse before the building was declared safe. Source: <http://www.norwichbulletin.com/news/crime/x1380095288/Police-Man-threatened-to-blow-up-Putnam-courthouse>

(Tennessee) Two students arrested in bomb threats. The Washington County Sheriff's Department in Tennessee arrested two 17-year-old David Crockett High School students who are accused of calling in two bombs threats September 21. According to the sheriff, deputies arrested the Jonesborough school students for filing false reports after an investigation into the bomb threat revealed the threats were called in from a student's cell phone. One of the students was also charged with criminal responsibility for the facilitation of a felony. Deputies said the students said they just wanted to get out of class. The court will be asked to order restitution for expenditures incurred during the false bomb threat. The charges against the students could lead to a jail term of at least 1

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year. Both students are being housed at the Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Johnson City pending their September 23 appearance in Washington County Juvenile Court. Source:

<http://www2.tricitie.com/news/2010/sep/21/6/students-crockett-evacuated-bomb-threats-made-ar-516903/>

(Texas) Shooter dead after wounding 2 at Fort Bliss store. A person opened fire September 20 at a convenience store on Fort Bliss in Texas, injuring two people before being killed by responding officers, the commander of the West Texas Army post said. An Army official declined to discuss the conditions of the victims or other details of the shooting. The Army official said the area was roped off for an FBI investigation, but the sprawling facility next to El Paso never was under lockdown. An Army official said the shooting was reported about 3 p.m. and authorities responded in about 3 minutes. He said the post's emergency notification system worked well, sending several messages to his cell phone. "Our law enforcement agents took it upon themselves to react immediately and aggressively, and I think that's the main reason why this didn't escalate further than it is right now," an Army official said. The victims were taken to nearby William Beaumont Army Medical Center, said a post spokesman. An FBI spokesman said the agency was not releasing any details. The victims were employees at the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, the mayor of El Paso told the El Paso Times. The service runs merchandise operations for the military, including fast-food restaurants and convenience stores, according to the service's Web site. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i9DmwYRpOJCoHFnfUt068t6hlu3QD9IC1NTG0>

(Oregon) Suspicious package brings bomb squad to downtown Roseburg. Traffic on Douglas Street in Roseburg, Oregon was closed off for about 2 hours September 20, after a suspicious package was found in front of the courthouse. A Roseburg police officer noticed the package on a bench by a planter near the front entrance to the courthouse early in the evening. The officer contacted the bomb squad, and police closed off Douglas Street until the bomb squad arrived at about 8:30 p.m. The bomb squad X-rayed the box to see if it was an explosive. They couldn't tell for sure, so they decided to blow it up with an explosive charge. After the explosion, they checked the debris and found cell phone accessories, batteries, cords, and other items, but no cell phone. Police said it did not appear to have gunpowder or other explosive material. They are not sure who left the package on the bench. No one was injured. Source: <http://www.kpic.com/news/local/103414659.html>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Zeus botnets' Achilles' Heel makes infiltration easy. A security researcher has discovered a potentially crippling vulnerability in one of the most widely used botnet toolkits, a finding that makes it easy for blackhats and whitehats alike to take control of huge networks of infected PCs. The flaw in the Zeus crimeware kit makes it trivial to hijack the C&C, or command and control, channels used to send instructions and software updates to compromised computers that often number in the hundreds of thousands. There are in turn thousands or tens of thousands of botnets that are spawned from Zeus, and the vast majority are susceptible to the technique. That means the bug could make takedowns by law enforcement and rival crime gangs significantly easier, said the researcher, who discovered the defect and has written a simple program to exploit it. The researcher's script allows a user to upload and execute code of his choosing directly on the server running the Zeus C&C. Although the Zeus architects designed their software to block executable

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scripts from being downloaded, they did so using poorly written PHP code that can easily be defeated. What's more, a separate directory traversal flaw makes it easy to place the malicious payload directly in the server's root directory, ensuring the attacker can easily find his malicious script. To run the script, an attacker first must extract the cryptographic key an infected PC uses to communicate with the C&C. Although the designers took pains to keep the RC4 key secret, it can easily be deduced by reading it after it's loaded into computer memory, or by decrypting the bot's configuration file. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/09/27/zeus_botnet_hijacking/

More than 6,000 Russian domains registered in two weeks as spam domains move back to .ru.

Spammers are increasing the use of Russian domain registrars for their various spam campaigns with up to 600 domains registered at once. Detection by M86 Security of a continuous stream of newly registered .ru domains in spam e-mail has led to one third of all unique domains being a .ru domain. Almost all of the .ru domains are registered through two registrars, Naunet and Reg.ru, with spammers generally advertising each domain for only few hours and registering new ones all the time. It said that in the last month from spam alone, it has seen over 4,000 .ru domains registered through Naunet. These are hosting a variety of spam Web sites including ultimate replica, Dr Maxman, online casinos, via grow and Eurosoft software. Although the spammed Web sites are generally non-malicious as they do not try to exploit vulnerabilities on the visitor's machine, M86 said it has seen domains registered with both of these registrars used as controllers for the Zeus crimeware kit. Naunet was recently used to register domains used as control servers for the Asprox botnet, although these were done on a much smaller scale than the spam domains. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/more-than-6000-russian-domains-registered-in-two-weeks-as-spam-domains-move-back-to-ru/article/179464/>

Report: Half of apps have security problems. More than half of software used in enterprises has security problems, according to a new report to be released September 22 from Veracode, an application security company. Veracode looked at more than 2,900 applications over an 18-month period that were used by its cloud-based customers and found that 57 percent of all the apps were found to have unacceptable application security quality. Eight out of 10 Web apps failed to meet the OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project) Top 10 requirement that is necessary to achieve PCI (payment card industry) compliance for use in financial and e-commerce sites, Veracode said. The report finds that third-party code, which is growing in use by enterprises, is often insecure. Third-party suppliers failed to achieve acceptable security standards 81 percent of the time, the report said. Meanwhile, cross-site scripting remains the most common of all application vulnerabilities, and .NET applications showed "abnormally high" numbers of flaws, Veracode said. Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-27080_3-20017011-245.html

Uber-zombie cookies give us the fear. Privacy activists got hot under the collar about the use of flash cookies to respawn traditional Web site cookies but an even more persistent type of cookie that's almost impossible to kill off may lie just around the corner. So-called invulnerable evercookies use eight different techniques and locations to hide on tagged systems, including Web history, HTML5 session storage and even the "RGB values of auto-generated, force-cached PNGs using HTML5 Canvas tag to read pixels (cookies) back out" as well as in flash or regular cookies. Providing just one copy of the cookie remains, the other locations are rebuilt. A developer explains the point of his idea: "Evercookie is designed to make persistent data just that, persistent. By storing the same data in several locations that a client can access, if any of the data is ever lost (for example, by clearing

cookies), the data can be recovered and then reset and reused. Simply think of it as cookies that just won't go away." The developer reckons using Private Browsing in Safari will stop ALL evercookie methods following a browser restart. He has not tested whether this approach work with other browsers. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/09/23/invulnerable_evercookies/

Twitter hack: Made in Japan? The recent Twitter attack that caused a widespread headache for the micro-blogging service appears to have been triggered by a Japanese computer hacker who said he was only trying to help. The attack, which emerged and was shut down within hours September 21, involved a "cross-site scripting" flaw that allowed users to run JavaScript programs on other computers. The originator is believed to be someone who uses the name "Masato Kinugawa" in cyberspace and acknowledges creating the Twitter account "RainbowTwtr" that demonstrated the vulnerability. Through his Twitter account and personal blog, Kinugawa regularly tracks down possible computer security loopholes and notifies companies of their existence. Earlier this year, he pointed out several scripting problems to Japanese Internet company Livedoor, which thanked him with a 15,000 yen (\$177) gift certificate. Kinugawa said he contacted Twitter about the weakness August 14 — but in vain. "Twitter had not fixed this critical issue long after it had been notified," Kinugawa tweeted. "Twitter left this vulnerability exposed, and its recognition of this problem was low. Rather than have someone maliciously abuse this under the radar, I decided it would be better to urgently expose this as a serious problem and have it be addressed." Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100923/ap_on_hi_te/tec_twitter_hack

Top 10 network security threats. With cyber-threats becoming a daily headache for IT security staff, it helps to have some advice, or at least know what to look out for. One researcher of Fortinet, a network security software provider, offered his observations on the top 10 threats that can harm networks from the inside and ways to combat them. And according to him, the number of threats just keeps growing. "The ways that the networks can be compromised 5 years ago internally, certainly still exist. It's just that today, that list is really growing, and that's why this is ongoing research," said a project manager for cyber-security and threat research at Fortinet. The manager said that the company has more than 100 researchers worldwide who monitor network activity. According to the researchers, the top 10 internal network vulnerabilities are: 1) USB drives, 2) laptops and netbooks, 3) wireless access points, 4) miscellaneous USB devices (digital cameras, MP3 players, etc.,) 5) employees borrowing others' machines or devices, 6) the Trojan human (attackers who visit sites disguised as employee personnel or contractors,) 7) optical media (CDs, DVDs, etc.,) 8) lack of employee alertness, 9) smartphones, and 10) e-mail. Source: <http://www.govtech.com/security/Top-10-Network-Security-Threats.html>

Software vulnerabilities reaching 'unacceptable' levels. Developers are failing to meet industry security standards when creating new software, according to testing firm Veracode. Data collected on 2,900 applications by the company's security verification service suggests that more than half of tested applications contain "unacceptable" levels of vulnerabilities. Financial sector applications had the lowest vulnerability levels, and mission-critical applications in general were found to be less vulnerable. Web-based applications were found to be particularly vulnerable, however. More than 80 percent of submitted Web applications contained errors listed in the Open Web Application Security Project's Top 10 risk list. The vice president of product marketing at Veracode told V3.co.uk that the high number of vulnerabilities in Web applications could be down to the skill of the developer and heightened interest in testing Web applications. She shot down the notion that data stored on site is

more secure than cloud computing services, or that installed applications are inherently more secure. Instead, she suggests that companies are adopting stricter testing practices that should have been in use all along. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2270200/applications-falling-short>

Symantec warns of a new virus threat, as remote workers most likely to breach rules. With Stuxnet and the “Here you have” worm both highlighting the threat of a virus, there’s been a further detection of what has been called the Sality.AE virus. According to Symantec’s September 2010 MessageLabs Intelligence Report, the Sality.AE virus was the most prevalent blocked piece of malware in the month. It said that Sality.AE spreads by infecting executable files and attempts to download potentially malicious files from the Internet and in terms of endpoint threats, it was the most prevalent. Also, one third of employees are more likely to trigger a Web site block based on corporate policy infringement when on the road rather than in the office. The report found that Web-based malware accounted for one in 1,807 of the Web site traffic blocks triggered for remote workers, compared with one in 322 for office-based workers. Of the blocked sites, shopping, search engines and dating categories were frequently blocked for workers outside the office than those who are inside, while blocks on adult or sexually explicit content were more likely to be attempted from the workplace. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/symantec-warns-of-a-new-virus-threat-as-remote-workers-most-likely-to-breach-rules/article/179335/>

Fake ‘universal’ iPhone jailbreaking exploit contains Trojan. When Apple released iOS 4.0.2 which, among other things, patched the vulnerabilities that allowed iPhone owners to jailbreak their device, these users were faced with the question “To upgrade or not to upgrade?” But, buyers of iPhones with iOS 4.0.2 or 4.1 already preinstalled didn’t have that choice — and they still don’t. And even though a hacker announced he was working on an exploit that will change this and will allow users to jailbreak any existing or future iPhone or iPad (regardless of the iOS version), this exploit has yet to see the light of day. Aware that the jailbreaking community is eagerly waiting for the solution to come out, miscreants thought of trying to use the hype to push some of their malicious wares. According to a Kaspersky Lab expert, the awaited exploit will be called “Greenpois0n,” so they named the .rar archive that contains the information-stealing Trojan greenpois0n_By p0sixninja and made it available for download on popular torrent sites. Web sites selling fake tools that can supposedly jailbreak any iPhone with any iOS have also appeared. Selling these tools for a price that goes up to \$40, they are also trying to capitalize on the users’ lack of patience. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1468

Twitter flaw pumps out spam links. A flaw in the Web site of micro-blogging service Twitter is being used to pump out pop-up messages and links to porn sites. Users only have to move their mouse over the link — not click it — to open it in the browser. Thousands of Twitter accounts have so far posted messages exploiting the flaw including the wife of the United Kingdom’s former prime minister. The malicious links look like a random URL and contain the code “onmouseover”. This command — written in a programming language called Javascript — automatically directs users to another Web site, some of which contain pornography. “There is no legitimate reason to tweet Javascript,” a researcher at security firm Sophos, told BBC News. He said that it looked like the initial vulnerability was exploited as a prank by users, but was now being spread by a worm, a self-replicating and malicious piece of code. Until the flaw is fixed, users should use a third-party Twitter client — such as TweetDeck — rather than the Twitter.com Web site, he advised. Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-11382469>

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

(Colorado) Fire burning in Routt National Forest. A small wildfire was burning late September 26 in the Routt National Forest in Colorado, about 18 miles north of Steamboat. U.S. Forest Service officials said the call came in at 1:30 p.m. September 26. So far, eight acres have burned. Officials said there is one crew working the fire, with one engine and a helicopter dropping water on the fire. No structures are threatened at this time. Source:

<http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=155102&catid=346>

(California) Fire scorches brush in Cleveland National Forest. A fire driven by dry brush in eastern Orange County, California, threatened some remote campground structures September 23 in the Cleveland National Forest. As of 4:15 p.m. September 23, the fire had burned at least 25 acres, the Orange County Register reported. No homes were in danger, but a few structures at the Los Pinos Conservation Camp were threatened. The fire broke out around noon in the Long Canyon area of the national forest, west of the Ortega (74) Highway and near the Riverside County line, a spokesman for the Cleveland National Forest said. At least one law-enforcement officer at the scene suffered an unknown type of heat-related injury. The extent of the injury was not immediately known. The fire was being driven by fuel and topography. Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local-beat/Fire-Scorches-Brush-in-Cleveland-National-Forest-103659199.html>

(Pennsylvania) Fast traffic causes monument damage. Careless driving has resulted in monument damage at Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, leading the superintendent to announce that memorial relocation is being considered. He also reported that new signage and traffic control devices, such as bumper strips, are planned along battlefield roadways, to deter further collisions between vehicles and monuments. The Pennsylvania 74th Monument along West Howard Avenue, just northwest of Gettysburg, is under consideration to be relocated farther from the roadway, near its current position. According to the National Park Service, the monument — which sits about 10 feet back from the road — has been struck repeatedly over the past 5 years by wayward drivers. Motorists damaged the monument again this past summer. The monument sits near a bend in the roadway, dubbed “Dead Monuments Curve” by park guides and historians. One new sign was recently installed along the road, warning motorists about the curve. Park officials explained that they would not relocate the 74th Pennsylvania Monument far from its current location, as its placement denotes an historically-accurate position of troops during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Source: http://www.gettysburgtimes.com/news/article_ef92e706-c6ba-11df-862f-001cc4c03286.html

(Wyoming) Yellowstone, Laramie wildfires growing. Three significant wildfires are burning in Wyoming, including a lightning-caused wildfire in Yellowstone National Park. The second fire is outside Laramie and a third is east of Evanston. The Yellowstone fire, which was reported September 14, was 5 percent contained September 20, growing to 1,600 acres, or nearly 2.5 square miles. The Laramie-area fire covered about 1,200 acres, or about 2 square miles, and the Evanston fire burned about 6,000 acres, or nearly 10 square miles. A Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman said the fire about 5 miles east of Evanston was not threatening structures and there are no reports of any effect on traffic on Interstate 80. Source: <http://www.kulr8.com/news/wyoming/103404139.html>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(Florida) Explosive device found in mailbox. A U.S. postal worker delivering mail made a startling discovery September 25 when she found a suspicious device inside a mailbox in Ocala, Florida. Ocala police said the mail carrier contacted a supervisor, who in turn called officers. Responding to Saddle Creek, a subdivision located in Fore Ranch off State Road 200, officials said the device had exploded but did not damage the mailbox. The device was described as a bottle that had some type of liquid inside. Ocala Fire Rescue, along with the Marion County Fire Rescue Hazmat team, went to the scene. The sheriff's office bomb squad also assisted in the investigation. Police have classified the investigation as a criminal investigation. Source:

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20100925/ARTICLES/100929758/-1/news?Title=Explosive-device-found-in-mailbox>

(California) Suspicious package prompts news station evacuation. A suspicious package was sent September 22 to the KPSP Local 2 newsroom in Thousand Palms, California, leading to the temporary evacuation of the station — less than 48 hours after the California Highway Patrol (CHP) received a similar package. The package sent to the TV station arrived in the mail September 22 from an unmarked sender. It was in a manila envelope and contained a small notebook with some sort of canister attached, believed to contain carbon dioxide. The station's assignment manager said he immediately knew something could have been wrong with the package. "It just looked a little off," he said. "Then when I took the package out of the envelope, I immediately brought it outside, washed my hands, and called the police." Several Riverside County Sheriff's deputies, along with the Riverside County Fire Department were dispatched to the Thousand Palms station, at which time they asked the building to be evacuated for about 15 minutes. The bomb squad left the station with the suspicious package. Officers do not believe the package to be a bomb, but they confirmed that it is identical to the package received by CHP September 20. Source:

<http://www.kpsplocal2.com/Content/Feature/story/Suspicious-Package-Prompts-News-Station-Evacuation/n5UtzC7cC0uTmkrL7HTp-A.csp>

PUBLIC HEALTH

Amgen, J&J anemia drugs recalled over glass flakes. Amgen Inc and Johnson & Johnson are recalling their Epogen and Procrit anemia treatments because of the potential for barely visible glass flakes in vials containing the injectable medicines. The contaminated product has the potential to cause serious problems, including dangerous blood clots, Amgen said in a press release announcing the recall. However, Amgen said there had been no complaints that can be directly attributed to the presence of glass. It said certain lots were being voluntarily recalled as a precaution. The glass flakes result from the interaction of the drug with glass vials over the shelf life of the product, Amgen said, Amgen manufactures Epogen and Procrit in the United States, where it sells Epogen, and J&J's Centocor Ortho Biotech unit distributes Procrit. J&J has been dealing with a rash of recalls for its consumer medicines. Amgen said the recall is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The drugs have been blockbuster products for the companies, but their sales and those of other anemia drugs, which boost red blood cells, have fallen sharply in recent years because of concerns over potential heart risks from overly high doses. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68N2WB20100924>

(Michigan) Abbott recalls beetle-tainted Similac baby formula. Abbott Laboratories said it is recalling millions of containers of its No. 1 Similac powdered infant formulas after beetles were found in the products, and in a Michigan plant where they are made. Abbott said September 22 the voluntary recall follows reports by two consumers of contamination and its inspection of an area of the plant in Sturgis, Michigan — where beetles or their larvae were found. Abbott said “less than 5 million units” of Similac are being recalled in the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean markets. “When we identified this, we did extensive testing of every product on the (factory) line, and more than 99.8 percent of the product was negative” for beetle contamination, said a company spokeswoman. She noted that liquid forms of Similac have not been affected or recalled. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68L4Q520100922>

(West Virginia) Whooping cough on rise in W.Va. Dozens of people, mostly children, across West Virginia may have whooping cough, and state health officials are investigating more cases this year than in the past several years combined. But health officials don’t believe there’s an epidemic of the bacterial infection, also known as pertussis. “Whooping cough has never gone away,” said the director of the state office of epidemiology and prevention services. “We’ve always had cases of pertussis reported, some years more than others.” Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201009210833>

Drug-resistant ‘superbugs’ hit 35 states, spread worldwide. Bacteria that are able to survive every modern antibiotic are cropping up in many U.S. hospitals and are spreading outside the country, public health officials said. The bugs, reported by hospitals in more than 35 states, typically strike the critically ill and are fatal in 30 percent to 60 percent of cases. Israeli doctors are battling an outbreak in Tel Aviv that has been traced to a patient from northern New Jersey, said the director of infection control and epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania and president of the Society of Healthcare Epidemiologists. The bacteria are equipped with a gene that enables them to produce an enzyme that disables antibiotics. The enzyme is called *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase. It disables carbapenem antibiotics, last-ditch treatments for infections that don’t respond to other drugs. “We’ve lost our drug of last resort,” he said. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/health/medical/2010-09-17-1Asuperbug17_ST_N.htm

Community Flu response plan cited in study. The real-time local surveillance and response system developed during the H1N1 flu outbreak last year should be studied as a possible national model for future epidemics, according to the new study, Response to H1N1 in a US-Mexico Border Community, published in the journal, Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science. The authors of the study found that “daily data analyses, including geographical information system mapping of cases and reports of school and daycare absences, were used for outbreak management,” and that “aggregate reports of influenza-like illness and primary school absences were accurate in predicting influenza activity and were practical for use in local tracking, making decisions, and targeting interventions. These simple methods,” the authors stressed, “should be considered for local implementation and for integration into national recommendations for epidemic preparedness and response” for the future. Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/14788/149/>

TRANSPORTATION

(Washington) Breach at Seattle airport causes partial shut down. A Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokesman said part of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in SeaTac, Washington was briefly shut down because of a security breach. An airport spokesman said that three passengers slipped past an unstaffed security checkpoint September 21 just after 6 p.m. A TSA spokesman said planes were kept at their gates for about 20 minutes until the three could be located and screened. One was still in the security area; the other two were found in the boarding gate area. All three checked out OK. The TSA spokesman said the three passengers passed through while security personnel were rotating positions. Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hRuoke2Drr16Wgo8DIqv1j_0RzgD9ICPM701

(Rhode Island) Pilot is affected by laser beam. Federal and local authorities are vowing to crack down on people who shine laser pointers at aircraft after a significant increase this year in the number of such cases, including one that left a pilot temporarily blinded last week as he landed a passenger plane in Warwick, Rhode Island. In the latest local case, a 31-year-old Warwick man allegedly pointed his high-powered laser pointer at the cockpit of a Continental Airlines passenger airplane landing at T.F. Green Airport, briefly blinding the pilot. According to FBI statistics, about 1,000 incidents were reported nationwide in 2008; from January through August of this year, 1,700 incidents were reported. "The seriousness of these incidents cannot be overstated," said a special agent in charge of the FBI field office in Boston. "Most often lasers are pointed at aircraft during critical phases of flight while they are at low altitude or preparing to land or take off. Any brief distraction in the cockpit during this time can be catastrophic." Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2010/09/24/pilot_is_affected_by_laser_beam/

(Wisconsin) Flooding causing trouble in central, northern Wisconsin. Heavy rain and flooding in western Wisconsin is causing evacuations and road closures in Arcadia and lesser problems across central and northern Wisconsin. The Trempealeau Sheriff's Department said the city of Arcadia is dealing with some major flooding. The mayor has declared a state of emergency. Deputies said the downtown area is completely flooded, and officials have ordered a mandatory evacuation of Cleveland Street in Arcadia. Arcadia's park and recreation director estimated 100 homes in the city of 2,500 could be affected by flooding. The Arcadia School District has canceled classes and production is on hold at Ashley Furniture. Sheriff's deputies said Highways 95 and 93 into Arcadia are flooded. Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/103619534.html>

Nigeria: Dead body found in airplane wheel well. A Nigerian airline spokesman said the dead body of an apparent stowaway was found inside the wheel well of an aircraft that originated in South Africa. An Arik Air spokesman said that workers found the body September 20 after the Airbus A300 returned from Johannesburg. He described the incident as a "security breach" and said he had no other information. A Nigerian federal aviation spokesman declined to immediately comment. Arik Air is considered Nigeria's top commercial airline. In August, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration granted Nigeria its top air-safety rating. That allows Nigerian airlines to fly directly to the U.S. However, porous airport security remains a concern in Africa's most populous nation. Source:

<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Nigeria-Dead-body-found-in-airplane-wheel-well-667926.php>

(Indiana) S. Indiana man sentenced to probation after pleading guilty to leaving explosive on railroad. A southern Indiana man has pleaded guilty to charges that he put a device filled with gunpowder on railroad tracks in Jeffersonville and tried to explode it. A Clark County judge sentenced the 48-year-old to 1 year's probation and fined him about \$3,000 on the misdemeanor criminal recklessness charge. More serious charges of bomb possession were dropped because investigators didn't believe the man was trying to harm anyone or damage property. Source: http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/62341d276d294e4081ce64d7000ba4ef/IN--Railroad_Explosives/

(New York) N.Y. adds subway cameras after Times Square bomb. New York City, New York activated 500 new subway cameras in heavily traveled stations in response to security threats such as the attempted bombing of Times Square, the mayor said September 20. The cameras at the Times Square, Penn Station and Grand Central subway stations marked an expansion of a previously announced program that aims to increase the number of security cameras in Manhattan to some 3,000 from 1,159. Those cameras have been largely funded by a \$120 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has activated 1,400 cameras of its own in the past 6 months. Source: <http://theusdaily.com/articles/viewarticle.jsp?id=1207687&type=home>

(New York) Smoky fire under NYC bridge halts Metro-North commuter train traffic for over 2 hours. A large fire under a bridge sent billowing smoke over New York City, New York and shut down commuter rail service between Manhattan and the northern suburbs for over 2 hours September 20. Television footage showed wooden pilings on a pier in the Harlem River began burning under the 138th Street lift bridge and FDNY marine units hitting the fire with water. Huge orange flames were visible, and plumes of white and black smoke wafted over the river and East Harlem. The fire began shortly before noon and was declared under control around 1:30 p.m. Metro-North resumed service around 2:30 p.m., with scattered delays of up to 15 minutes. It said two of the four tracks on the bridge had been restored. The railroad was assessing damage on the remaining tracks and its impact, if any, on the evening rush-hour. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-bridge-fire-train-service,0,6260754.story>

DOT announces broader texting ban for Hazmat drivers. The U.S. Transportation Secretary said September 21 that the federal government would seek to ban text messaging by all drivers hauling hazardous materials. The secretary made the announcement in starting the Department of Transportation's (DOT) second "distracted driving summit" in Washington D.C. "We're initiating a new rulemaking that will limit commercial truck drivers' use of all electronic devices while transporting hazardous materials," he said, adding that DOT's ban on commercial drivers using a cell phone to text while driving takes effect September 21. A DOT spokeswoman said that the new proposal was necessary because the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration only has the authority to ban texting by interstate carriers, while the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration can regulate intrastate haz-mat carriers. DOT's rule banning texting by truckers was

sent to the White House last week for review. Source:

<http://www.ttnews.com/articles/basetemplate.aspx?storyid=25218>

WATER AND DAMS

(Pennsylvania) Tap water given first OK to drink since 2003. For the first time in 7 years, residents of Bally, Berks County, Pennsylvania, no longer need to drink bottled water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sent a letter to residents informing them that construction of a new water supply well in Washington Township is now complete. Officials said it replaces one contaminated by a chemical that leaked into the groundwater from storage containers on the site of the old Bally Engineered Structures company. The EPA said the new well, with the old one disconnected and the borough water system now flushed, makes the tap water safe for drinking and cooking. Tests done by the EPA in 2003 showed that the borough's water system contained low levels of the cancer-causing toxin 1,4-dioxane, a solvent used in degreasing and in the formulation of inks, coatings, and adhesives. The remedial project manager said he wanted the cancer risk of 1 in 100,000 to drop to 1 in 1 million. He said the new well is in an uncontaminated location and will continue to be monitored. The delivery of bottled water will end September 28, and arrangements will be made to recover bottled water dispensers. Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/berksnews/25115632/detail.html>

(Iowa) Iowa DNR says Shell Rock River dam failing. Officials with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said the dam on the Shell Rock River near Rockford is failing and needs to be removed or repaired as soon as possible. The DNR sent a letter to the Floyd County Conservation director telling him of the problems with the dam. Last month, the National Weather Service warned of a potential break in the dam and Floyd County officials said water was undercutting the structure. He said county officials are reviewing the DNR report to determine their next step. The 7-foot dam was built in 1872 to power a grist mill on the Shell Rock River. Part of the dam is publicly owned. The remainder is owned privately and was repaired in 2004. Source: http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/article_f060eb12-cadb-555a-adc9-6e2eb6539c9e.html

USGS to brief Congress on phosphorus, nitrogen levels in U.S. water supply. On September 24, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will hold a congressional briefing on high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in U.S. water supplies, according to a press release. A new nationwide USGS study shows excessive nutrient enrichment is widespread in streams, exceeding nutrient criteria recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in most agricultural and urban watersheds. USGS will brief Congress, the media and the public on nutrient concentrations in U.S. water resources, key sources of nutrients, potential effects on humans and aquatic life, and changes in concentrations since the early 1990s, the release stated. Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=74947

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NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov ; Fax: 701-328-8175
State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455
US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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